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ABSTRACT

This collection of essays explores the diversity of contemporary English language use, both spoken and written, around the world. The first chapters focus on the use of English within various kinds of interpersonal communication, and later chapters look at artistic and creative products of English speakers and writers, discussing the kinds of cultural achievement they represent. Some chapters address variation in terms of: accent, dialect, and other social and regional forms; written versus spoken forms; and adaptation of language use to serve particular purposes and conform to the conventions of particular kinds of cultural event. Chapters include: "Everyday Talk" (Janet Maybin); "Literacy Practices in English" (Mike Baynham, Maybin); "English at Work" (Neil Mercer); "Rhetoric in English" (Robin Wooffitt); "What Makes English Into Art?" (Lesley Jeffries); "Language Play in English" (Guy Cook); "An English Canon?" (Maybin); and "A Tongue, For Sighing" (Jane Miller). Contains 192 references. Contents are indexed. (MSE)

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